

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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NSAE-00 MC-02 SP-02 INRE-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 /048 W

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O R 191814Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7177

SECDEF WASHDC/DSAA/ISA(SA) IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ4/7

USNMR SHAPE BE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, XX

SUBJECT: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

REF: (A) STATE 119079 (DTG 141703Z MAY 76), (B) LISBON 1336

(DTG 011900Z MAR 76)

SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AGAINST REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF THE MAAG ON THE GROUNDS THAT U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL REQUIRE AN AUGMENTED US CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE ADVISORY AND ASSISTANCE HELP.

REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF THE MAAG FUNCTION NOW WOULD UNDERCUT THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE TO DATE IN RETURNING MILITARY TO PROFESSIONAL NATO-LINKED ROLE, GIVE THE COMMUNISTS AN ISSUE TO EXPLOIT WITHIN THE MILITARY, IMPEDE PORTUGAL'S RETURN TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN NATO, POSSIBLY AFFECT OUR ACCESS TO AZORES BASE FACILITIES, AND REDUCE PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL SECURITY CAPABILITY AT A TIME WHEN INTERNAL SECURITY IS VITAL TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. OBJECTIVES: IN ITS 1976 ASSESSMENT, THE EMBASSY INDICATED A TOP POLICY OBJECTIVE WAS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A "PROFESSIONAL, NATO-ORIENTED MILITARY FORCE ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED, WELL TRAINED, AND CAPABLE OF PROVIDING INTERNAL DEFENSE FOR A PRO-WESTERN CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY." WE
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LATER NOTED THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE WOULD BE A CRITICAL FACTOR

IN HELPING THE MILITARY MAKE THE TRANSITION TO A DISCIPLINED PROFESSIONAL FORCE.

2. ROLE OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE: THIS MISSION IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE THREE PORTUGUESE SERVICES TO HELP THEM FOCUS ON A NATO ROLE NOW THAT THE MILITARY IS NO LONGER PREOCCUPIED WITH AFRICAN COUNTER-INSURGENCY CAMPAIGNS. EXTERNAL MILITARY AID IS INDISPENSABLE. THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY, AFTER TWO YEARS OF LEFTIST MISMANAGEMENT, IS IN BAD SHAPE AND THE GOP IS IN NO POSITION TO FINANCE A MODERN MILITARY FORCE.

3. THE TASK: THE PROPOSED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO PORTUGAL'S MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOCUSES ON THE CREATION OF A NATO-COMMITTED AIR TRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE FOR THE ARMY, PROVISION OF TRANSPORT AND FIGHTER BOMBER AIRCRAFT FOR THE AIR FORCE TO SUPPORT THE BRIGADE, MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE OBSOLETE P2V'S, AND THE UP-GRADING OF NAVY ASW SHIP CAPABILITIES.

4. MAAP RESPONSIBILITIES: UNTIL THE APRIL 1974 REVOLT, THE MAAG WAS FULLY OCCUPIED ADMINISTERING A RELATIVELY MODEST PROGRAM. WE ARE NOW WELL ADVANCED IN GETTING APPROVAL FOR THE MAJOR MODERNIZATION EFFORT DESCRIBED ABOVE. THE PROGRAM IS PLANNED AS FOLLOWS:

-- PHASE I

(1) FIVE TANKS

(2) TWENTY ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS

(3) SIX ARMORED CAVALRY VEHICLES

(4) WHEELED VEHICLES TO ALLOW COMPANY LEVEL TRAINING

(5) ANTI-TANK WEAPONRY TO ALLOW INITIATION OF TRAINING

(6) LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY

(7) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT QUANTITIES FOR TRAINING
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(8) THREE C-130H AIRCRAFT

(9) MAINTENANCE REQUIRED TO UPGRADE US-PROVIDED ASW SHIPS
TO NATO STANDARDS.

-- PHASE II

COMPLETE NATO BRIGADE MODERNIZATION WITH BASIC END ITEMS,
PROVIDE LIMITED AIRLIFT AND FBA CAPABILITY, AND REPLACE
CURRENTLY NON-OPERATIONAL MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT.

-- PHASE III

COMPLETION OF PLANNED MODERNIZATION. THE MODERNIZATION
PACKAGE IS A TOTAL SYSTEMS EFFORT WITH TRAINING AND BACKUP
SUPPORT. STRONG US SUPPORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO ASSIST
THE PORTUGUESE IN ESTABLISHING THE ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING
NECESSARY TO ABSORB THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION PACKAGE.

5. AZORES: THE ABOVE PROGRAM DOES NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERA-
TION MILITARY AID ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE IN THE US QUID
AS A RESULT OF AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS. REDUCTION IN MAAG
CAPABILITIES COULD WELL AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO
NEGOTIATE CONTINUED ACCESS TO AZORES BASE FACILITIES. GOP
WOULD SEE REDUCTION AS A SIGNAL OF US UNWILLINGNESS TO
CONTINUE SIGNIFICANT DEFENSE COOPERATION.

6. MAAP ADVISORY FUNCTION: THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY
ESTABLISHMENT, DEDICATED OVER THE LAST DECADE PRIMARILY TO
A PRIMITIVE GUERRILLA WAR IN AFRICA, BADLY NEEDS ON THE
GROUND ADVICE AND TRAINING PLUS LONG TERM PLANNING ASSISTANCE.
IT LOOKS TO THE US FOR THIS HELP. A SPECIFIC REQUEST HAS
ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR AN AIR FORCE EVALUATION TEAM; SIMILAR
TEAMS WILL PROBABLY BE REQUESTED FOR THE ARMY AND NAVY.

7. MAAG SIZE: THE MAAG IS CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED SEVEN OFFICERS,
FOUR ENLISTED MEN, THREE SECRETARIES, AND SEVEN FOREIGN SERVICE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 3353

LOCAL EMPLOYEES. CHMAAG BELIEVES THE MANAGEMENT OF THE INCREASE IN GRANT AID CONTEMPLATED BY THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM CALLS FOR, AT A MINIMUM, AN INCREASE IN MAAG STRENGTH OF TWO ARMY, TWO NAVY, AND TWO AIR FORCE OFFICERS; TWO DAC STENO TYPISTS AND THREE FSL PERSONNEL. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A MAAG IN WHICH EACH SERVICE SECTION WOULD CONSIST OF THREE OFFICERS, ONE ENLISTED, AND ONE SECRETARY. THERE WOULD ALSO BE A PLANS/ADMIN SECTION OF THREE OFFICERS, ONE ENLISTED, ONE SECRETARY, AND TEN FSL, AND A CHIEF MAAG WITH A SECRETARY. I AM PRESENTLY REVIEWING THIS REQUEST.

8. RECOMMENDATION: THE RETURN OF THE MILITARY TO A PROFESSIONAL ROLE IS A KEY POLITICAL OBJECTIVE IN PORTUGAL. REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF MAAG FUNCTIONS WOULD UNDERCUT THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE TO DATE, GIVE THE COMMUNISTS AN ISSUE TO EXPLOIT WITHIN THE MILITARY, IMPEDE PORTUGAL'S RETURN TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN NATO, POSSIBLY AFFECT OUR ACCESS TO AZORES BASE FACILITIES, AND REDUCE PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL SECURITY CAPABILITY AT A TIME WHEN INTERNAL SECURITY IS VITAL TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. I AM RECEPTIVE TO EXPLORING ORGANIZATIONAL OPTIONS SHOULD THIS PROVE DESIRABLE BUT RIGHT NOW THE MAAG FULFILLS A VITAL NEED AND WE SHOULD BE THINKING OF ENHANCING NOT
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REDUCING ITS CAPACITY.
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